Big Cypress National Preserve Florida



# 05/14/2011 Jarhead Fire Update

Incident Commander: John Nobles, Big Cypress Fire Management Officer

Public Information Officer: Mike Johnson, 402-250-5017 (cell)

Public Affairs Officer/Landowner Contact: Bob DeGross, 239-695-1107, 239-293-3643 (cell)

Jarhead Fire Information: 239-695-0031

Fire Facts:

Location: Center of Big Cypress National Preserve

Size: 38,130 acres (as of 1700 5/13/11)

Percent Contained: 95% Cause: lightning

Number of Personnel: 213

Date started: **04/26/2011** 

Estimated Containment Date: 5/18/2011

Injuries to Date: two (minor)
Aircraft: 3 helicopters

Equipment: 10 fire swamp buggies, 9 engines

Crews: one 20-person hotshot crew

#### **General Information/Announcements:**

The National Park Service has established incident priorities that include firefighter and public safety, protecting private property, threatened and endangered species and their habitat, and natural and cultural resources. NPS resource advisors continue to work with crews to assess resource impacts and appropriate firefighting tactics.

Smoke coming from the Jarhead fire has diminished considerably compared to levels earlier this past week. However, there have been several new fire starts in South Florida in the past few days that have contributed to increased smoke reports.

## **Today's Activity:**

The Fire Management staff at Big Cypress assumed responsibility for managing the Jarhead Fire on Friday afternoon. The Southwest Area Type 1 Incident Management Team that had been managing the Jarhead Fire was demobilized from the fire on Friday to return to the Southwest to be available for on-going fires in that region.

"The Southwest IMT [Incident Management Team] left the fire in good hands", said Incident Commander John Nobles, "We have plenty of firefighters and resources available to continue our containment of the Jarhead Fire." Nobles added, "We also are ready to respond to any new fires that may be started from the lightning expected this weekend".

Crews will continue to patrol, monitor, and mop up on the entire Jarhead Fire perimeter as needed.

As equipment and resources are no longer needed on the Jarhead Fire, they will be released from the incident to return to their home units or be reassigned to other fires in the country.

## Closures/Advisories:

The Preserve is closed west of Oasis Visitor Center to Turner River Road, south of I-75 and north of U.S. 41. This closure includes the Florida National Scenic Trail within the area and the Oasis ORV access.

As of Saturday, May 14, 2011 landowners, and their properly permitted guests, will be allowed to enter the established closure area for the purpose of accessing their private property along designated trails. Travel should be during daylight hours only, from 7:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.

## The closure remains in place to those permitted ORV visitors seeking recreational access.

Landowners wishing to access the area should view the closure notice posted on the Big Cypress National Preserve website: http://www.nps.gov/bicy/naturescience/2011-jarhead-fire.htm

## Public Safety Message:

Please be aware of and observe area closures in effect due to aerial and firefighting operations. Drivers on U.S. 41 and I-75 should exercise extreme caution due to smoke and fire vehicle traffic.

#### **Partners/Cooperators**

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Everglades National Park, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Ochopee Fire District, Everglades City Fire District, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Collier County Sheriff's Department, Collier County Emergency Operations Center, Collier County Health Department.

#### For More Information

http://www.nps.gov/naturescience/2011-jarhead-fire.htm http://www.nps.gov/fire/ , http://www.inciweb.org